



JOHNSONIAN NEWS LETTER

James L. Clifford — John H. Middendorf, Co-editors

*610 Philosophy Hall, Columbia University,
New York 27, N. Y.*

Vol. XXI, No. 1

March 1961

THE CANON OF JOHNSON'S WORKS

As might have been expected, with the gradual progress of the new Yale Edition of the Works of Samuel Johnson there has come a widespread interest in matters of canon. What exactly did Johnson write? Is there much more to be discovered? And how certain are we of the validity of the traditional ascriptions? It is vital that we settle as many as possible of the controversial points at once. Happily, Donald Greene at the University of New Mexico has assembled a huge factual record of every piece ever ascribed to Johnson from which, when it is completed, students will be able properly to weigh each attribution on its merits.

The new approaches may be divided into two general categories: (1) the search for hitherto unknown pieces which may have been by Johnson, and (2) the careful examination of all earlier ascriptions, particularly those made merely through internal evidence. Recently there has been more activity on the first front. After all, there is more fun in making discoveries than in patient, careful testing of established traditions. But it is to be hoped that in the next few years more of you will devote some time to the analysis of style and content of those works in the accepted canon which rest on dubious or uncertain claims by earlier scholars.

During recent years most active in the forefront of the discoverers have been Ned McAdam, Donald Greene, Arthur Sherbo, Gwin Kolb, and Jacob Leed, with concentration focused largely on periodicals in which Johnson is known to have had a hand. Undoubtedly, he must have written far more for the Gentleman's Magazine than we have yet identified. The difficulty is that, for the most part, any new ascriptions must come largely through "internal" evidence, and until more accurate methods of stylistic analysis can be developed such identifications cannot be proved conclusively. To be sure, it is not certain that we ever will have any fool-proof mechanical yardstick with which to analyze a man's writing, but at least there should be more thorough attempts to

establish more criteria for judgment, rather than mere guesswork, or a subtle feeling that something sounds like Johnson.

Recently, for example, there have been a number of interesting suggestions of works which might be added to the canon. None rests on absolute external evidence or on conclusive stylistic analysis. Of two of them, Arthur Sherbo writes that they appear to him to be "almost without foundation." In an article entitled "A Lost Pamphlet of Giuseppe Baretti" in the English Miscellany [Rome], X (1959), 157-88, Miss C.J.M. Lubbers-Van der Brugge claims for Johnson a pamphlet connected with a controversy involving Vanneschi, managing director of the Italian Opera in London. The Voice of Discord, as it is called, appeared in French and English, and her theory is that Johnson helped Baretti with the English text. Yet the samples which she adduces are far from conclusive. As Sherbo further comments, "no serious student of the canon will accept them as Johnson's."

More reasonable, but still not wholly convincing, is the claim by Dr. Lawrence C. McHenry, Jr. in the course of an article entitled "Dr. Samuel Johnson's Medical Biographies" in the Journal of the History of Medicine, XIV (1959), 298-310, that Johnson wrote the biography of Oribasius in Volume III of Robert James's Medicinal Dictionary. Johnson's known connection with James's work is suggestive, but the style of this piece has so far not convinced Sherbo and others.

Another fascinating suggestion comes from Dr. F.W. Gibbs, Hon. Secretary of the Society for the study of Alchemy and Early Chemistry in London, in an article, "Dr. Johnson's First Published Work?" in AMBIX [Royal Institute of Chemistry, London] for February 1960. We owe our knowledge of this article to the kindness of Dr. McHenry, mentioned above. Briefly, Gibbs's suggestion is that in the late autumn of 1731 Johnson translated a portion of Boerhaave's Elementa Chemiae. Published in London on January 10, 1732, the translation was given the title, Elements of Chemistry: Being the Annual Lectures of Herman Boerhaave, M.D. In Two Volumes. Illustrated with Several Copper Plates. Englished by a Gentleman of the University of Oxford. No. 1. London: J. Clarke and S. Austen; sold by J. Roberts (price 1s. 6d.). Gibbs knows of only two copies: in the British Museum and in the Library of the Medical Society of London. Although the original Latin version, published in Leyden, is dated 1732, Gibbs indicates that there is evidence of its availability as early as October 1731. Thus the translation must have been made in November or early December 1731.

From a biographical point of view the idea is appealing. So far as we

can tell, during the autumn of this year Johnson was dismally moping in his home at Lichfield. It is quite possible that about this time occurred the celebrated incident of his refusal to take his father's place at Uttoxeter market. More certain is the fact that Michael Johnson died in early December. Having refused one request by his ailing father, Sam might well have agreed to try to make a little money to help the family finances by undertaking a translation. And Michael's active connections with printers and booksellers in London would have provided the necessary business arrangements. Moreover, the fact that the project collapsed after the appearance of the first part could be explained by the chaos occasioned by Michael's death.

But all this is pure guesswork. The translation might just as well have been done by a score of other gentlemen of Oxford. The first step is thus to prove that no one else did do the work. Do any copies survive in Oxford — perhaps in some college or private library — bearing ascriptions of authorship or other annotation? Obviously, should a presentation copy turn up, with the annotation in another's handwriting, the whole fantasy would be dispelled in an instant. Then, too, the translation should be subjected to intense stylistic analysis, possibly in the manner of that used by the statistician, G. Udny Yule. Then we might have something to go on. Yet even if the work should pass such stringent tests, there still is the dangerous possibility that sometime evidence will turn up which proves conclusively that the work was done by some college tutor having no connection with Johnson at all.

But reasonable reluctance to accept ascriptions wholesale need not take away any of the fun of the search. Certainly here is a happy hunting ground for Johnsonian sleuths.

EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY CRITICAL ESSAYS

For years we have lamented the fact that there was no collection of eighteenth-century criticism comparable to Joel Spingarn's invaluable set of volumes devoted to the previous century. W.H. Durham's volume only covered a short period, and besides has long been virtually unobtainable. Adams and Hathaway's Dramatic Essays of the Neoclassic Age concentrated only on one general topic. Now Scott Elledge and the Cornell University Press have earned our undying gratitude by presenting us with a large two-volume set of over 1200 pages, in which one may find selections from forty representative critics extending from Addison to Alexander Knox. Some of the selections are well known and easily obtainable elsewhere (for example, Addison's "Pleasures of the Imagination," and Johnson's Preface to Shakespeare), but others have not been often reprinted. Indeed, even the experts may find some

exciting surprises in the list. Fifteen of the selections are essentially abridgments of longer works (that is, they are made up of short excerpts strung together with a running connective summary), and the rest are either complete essays or chapters from longer works. For each author Elledge has provided extensive annotation at the back of each volume, and there is a full topical index. Obviously in the limited space available in JNL it is impossible to do full justice to such an important publication. Instead we recommend that you examine the two handsome volumes as soon as you can. Here certainly is a wealth of critical material which will make much easier the task of every teacher of literary criticism and of eighteenth-century aesthetics.

ROEHENSTART

On April 1, 1935 at Sotheby's in London there came up for sale a bundle of the private papers of a mysterious figure who sometimes called himself "the last of the Stuarts." Apparently he was the grandson of "Bonnie Prince Charlie," the illegitimate son of the Young Pretender's daughter Charlotte. He called himself Count Roehenstart, and any account of his career inevitably reads like the plot of a picaresque novel. Happily his papers were purchased by George Sherburn, who has finally printed them in an interesting little volume entitled: Roehenstart: a Late Stuart Pretender (University of Chicago Press). Modestly Sherburn disclaims any intention of providing a full-scale biography. Although he has had access to much unpublished material — indeed most of the facts in this volume have never before been in print — he has made no attempt to exhaust the resources of Continental archives, and has not tried to fill in the background with colorful descriptive details. What he gives us is the bare bones of an intriguing story. His purpose is to make available what new evidence he has been able to turn up, with the hope that it may stimulate others to further research. Yet there is a strange fascination about the career suggested by this book. Even though we may catch only scattered glimpses of the man—sometimes only enough to arouse further curiosity — the basic pattern does slowly materialize. No one will put down Sherburn's printing of the surviving evidence without a feeling of gratitude for even this sketchy view of the enigmatic life of the wandering Stuart exiles on the Continent during the late eighteenth century.

THE 1960 MLA MEETINGS

For those who were unable to attend the meetings this year in Philadelphia on December 27, 28, and 29, we list the papers touching our period. Included in English Section II were Benjamin Boyce, "Pope's Frontispiece for An Essay on Man (1745) and Contemporary Capriccio Paintings," and

Robert W. Ayers, "Robinson Crusoe: 'Allusive Allegoric History'." Group VII offered A. H. Scouten, "Early Accounts of the Apparition of Mrs. Veal: New Light on Defoe's Methods of Composing Prose Narrative," and F. W. Bateson, "Isn't Pope Overrated Now?" In Group VIII were Henry K. Miller, "Fielding and Lucian"; Arthur Sherbo, "Canonical Questions, with Some Answers from the Work of Arthur Murphy"; Edward Hart, "An Ingenious Editor: John Nichols and the Gentleman's Magazine." Group XIV was devoted entirely to Garrick: Kalman A. Burnim, "Garrick's Development of Staging Techniques"; Frederick L. Bergmann, "The Authorship of The Clandestine Marriage"; Mary E. Knapp, "Reference in Garrick's Verse to His Theatrical Career"; George M. Kahrl, "Garrick's 'Epistolary Integrity'." Also to be mentioned is Vivian H. S. Mercier, "Swift and Irish Satire," a paper sponsored by the Celtic 1 group. A highlight of the meetings was a "Program of Theatrical Music in the Eighteenth Century," produced for the General Meeting by Stoddard Lincoln, Columbia University (harpsichordist); with commentary by Lucyle Hook, Barnard College, and aided by Louise Natale and Dorothy Bergquist (sopranos), Richard Chapline (baritone), and Louise Behrend (violinist). Included in the program were two of Purcell's songs from Dryden's King Arthur; six of John Eccles' compositions from Congreve's Semele; four of Johann Friedrich Reichardt's from Goethe's Erwin und Elmire; and one each, by Mariano Bustos, from the tonadilla La Necedad (1790) and by Luis Misón, from Una Mesonera y un Arriero (c.1757):

TWO JOHNSONIAN REQUESTS FOR HELP

Jack Bate, now finishing the annotation of the Rambler for the Yale Johnson edition, writes that he is still stumped by the following unidentified quotes, which have either been overlooked in past efforts, or simply remain unknown:

[All page references are to the 1825 edition]

R. 4 (p. 19): Thus men are observed by Swift, to be "grateful in the same degree as they are resentful."

R. 5 (p. 23): "A French author . . . very few men know how to take a walk."

R. 71 (p. 336): "lamented by Hearne, the learned antiquary of Oxford, that . . . forgetfulness of the fragility of life, has remarkably infected the students of monuments and records . . . ought to amass no more than they can digest . . . It is, says he, the business of a good antiquary, as of a good man, to have mortality always before him."

R. 79 (p. 373): "When in the diet of the German empire, as Camerarius relates, the princes were ... boasting ... [one said] he could travel through [his] without guard, and if he was weary, sleep in safety upon the lap of the first man whom he should meet ..."

R. 87 (p. 411): "The preacher," says a French author, "may spend an hour in explaining and enforcing a precept of religion, without feeling any impression from his own performances, because he may have no further design than to fill up his hour."

R. 108 (p. 15): "An Italian philosopher expressed in his motto, that time was his estate."

R. 126: The Latin proverb used as a motto.

R. 160 (p. 256): "The world," says Locke, "has people of all sorts."

R. 169 (p. 297): "I please everyone else," says Tully, "but never satisfy myself."

R. 172 (p. 311): "A Virginian king, when the Europeans had fixed a lock on his door, was so delighted ... it was from morning to evening his whole employment to turn the key."

R. 173 (p. 316): "Observed in the panegyrick on Fabricius the mechanist, that, though forced by publick employments into mingled conversation, he never lost the modesty and seriousness of the convent..."

R. 201 (p. 432): "said by Cujacius, that he never read more than one book by which he was not instructed."

If any of you can supply information to clear up these mysteries, please write to Bate directly: Dept. of English, 3 Warren House, Harvard University, Cambridge 38, Mass.

The second request comes from Arthur Sherbo (Michigan State), who writes that he has been unable to identify the following quotations and would appreciate suggestions or positive identifications. References are to volume and page of Johnson's edition of Shakespeare, 1765.

1. Though Bedlam be in the road to Hogsden, it is out of the way to promotion. (IV, 166)

2. Peccantes culpare cave, nam labimur omnes.
Aut sumus, aut fuimus, vel possumus esse quod hic est.
(V, 73).
3. Indiget somni vitae condimenti. (VI, 440).
4. Si nequeo placidas affari Caesaris aures, Saltem aliquis veniat, qui mihi dicat, abi. (VIII, 417).
5. Casaubon "speaking of one who had Commerce with Spirits, blames him, though he imagines him one of the best kind who dealt with them by way of command" (I, 17).
6. "Sir Robert Cotton says, he would be content that England should never have a better, provided it should never have a worse" [king than James I] (IV, 365).

SHERIDAN'S LETTERS

From Cecil Price, who is hard at work completing his edition of the letters of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, there comes the following request. He is eager to locate the following extra-illustrated volumes:

1. Sale of collection of a prominent American playwright [A. Daly], by Leavitt, 14 Oct. 1878:

Lot 1080: J. Watkins, Sheridan, extra-ill. to two large volumes (royal quarto), and containing letters by Thomas & R. B. Sheridan.
2. Sale of Augustin Daly's collection, by the American Art Galleries, from 20 March 1900:

Lot 2397: T. Moore's Life of Byron, 2 vols., extra-ill., includes letter by R. B. Sheridan.
3. Sale of A. M. Broadley's collection by Hodgson, 21 July 1916:

Lot 218: Lives and Journals of Mary and Agnes Berry, 3 vols., 1865, extended to eighteen vols., includes a letter by R. B. Sheridan.

Price will be grateful for any suggestions you may be able to give him. He may be reached at University College, Aberystwyth, North Wales.

SOME RECENT ARTICLES

For the early period: Donald C. Baker, "Witchcraft, Addison, and The Drummer," Studia Neophilologica for 1959; Paul G. Brewster, "A Note on an Entry in Pepys's Diary," N.Y. Folklore Qltly for Spring 1960; T. W. Craik, "Some Aspects of Satire in Wycherley's Plays," English Studies for June; E. S. deBeer, "John Evelyn, F. R. S. (1620-1706)," and "King Charles II, Fundator et Patronus (1630-1685)," both in Notes & Records of the Royal Society of London for July; Frank Higenbottam, "The Apparition of Mrs. Veal to Mrs. Bargrave at Canterbury, 8th of September, 1705," Archaeologia Cantiana for 1959; Arthur W. Hoffman, "Dryden's To Mr. Congreve," MLN for Nov.; Earl Miner, "Dryden's Messianic Eclogue" [his translation of Virgil's 4th Eclogue], RES for Aug.; Melvin D. Palmer, "The Identity of 'M.G.' and 'O.B.' in Rochester's 'An Epistolary Essay from M.G. to O.B. Upon Their Mutual Poems,'" MLN for Dec.; Robert Gale Noyes, "Congreve and His Comedies in the Eighteenth-Century Novel," PQ for Oct.; M. E. Novak, "Defoe and the Machine Smashers," N&Q for Aug.; John M. Steadman, "Timotheus in Dryden, E.K., and Gafori," TLS for 16 Dec.; David M. Vieth, "A Textual Paradox: Rochester's 'To a Lady in a Letter'," Papers of the Bibliographical Soc. of America for 3d Qtr 1960; George R. Wasserman, "John Norris and the Veal-Bargrave Story," MLN for December.

For Pope and Swift: John M. Aden, "Doctrinal Design of An Essay on Criticism," College English for Feb.; Patrick Cruttwell, "Pope and His Church," Hudson Review for Autumn; Pierre Danchin, "The Text of Gullivers Travels," Texas Studies in Lit. & Lang. for Summer 1960; Betty C. Dodd, "Pope's Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot, 305-333," Explicator for Dec.; Paul Fussell, Jr., "The Frailty of Lemuel Gulliver," Essays in Literary History presented to J. Milton French (Rutgers U.P.); Thomas R. Edwards, Jr., "Light and Nature: A Reading of the Dunciad," PQ for Oct.; Arthur Fenner, Jr., "The Unity of Pope's Essay on Criticism," PQ for Oct.; G. K. Hunter, "The 'Romanticism' of Pope's Horace," Essays in Criticism for Oct.; Stanley Edgar Hyman, "The Rape of the Lock," Hudson Review for Autumn; Robert A. Greenberg, "'A Modest Proposal' and the Bible," MLR for Oct.; John B. Morrall, "Around and About Swift," Studies for Autumn; Brendan O'Hehir, "Meaning in Swift's 'Description of a City Shower'," ELH for Sept., and "Virtue and Passion: the dialectic of Eloisa to Abelard," Texas Studies in Lit. & Lang. for Summer 1960; Ronald Paulson, "Swift, Stella, and Permanence," ELH for Dec.; Philip Pinkus, "A Tale of a Tub and the Rosy Cross," JEGP for Oct.; Edmund Reiss, "The Importance of Swift's Glubbudubrib Episode," JEGP for Apr. 1960; C. N. Stavrov, "Gulliver's Voyage to the Land of the Dubliners," SAQ for Autumn; Geoffrey Tillotson, "Pope and

Boileau," N&Q for Aug.; A. N. Williams, "Pope and Appius," N&Q for August.

For the novelists: Jules C. Alciatore, "Stendhal, Sterne, et Chamfort," MLN for Nov.; Michael E. Adelstein, "Duality of Theme in The Vicar of Wakefield," College English for Feb.; Arthur Johnston, "Fielding, Hearne, and Merry-Andrews," N&Q for Aug.; J. P. Feil, "Fielding's Character of Mrs. Whitefield," PQ for Oct.; Eleanor N. Hutchens, "'Prudence' in Tom Jones: A Study of Connotative Irony," PQ for Oct.; Paul Kaufman, "Mr. Yorick and the Minster Library," N&Q for Aug.; Lewis M. Knapp, "Another Letter from Smollett to Dr. William Hunter," N&Q for Aug.; F. McCombie, "Count Fathom and El Buscón," N&Q for Aug.; Charles Parish, "A Table of Contents for Tristram Shandy," College English for Dec.; Sailendra Kumar Sen, "Sheridan's Literary Debt: 'The Rivals' and 'Humphrey Clinker'," MLQ for Dec.; LeRoy W. Smith, "Fielding and Mandeville: The 'War Against Virtue'," Criticism for Winter 1961; Allan Wendt, "Clarissa's Coffin," PQ for October.

For the later period: McD. Emslie, "Burns and the Alien Diction" [rev. art.], Essays in Criticism for Oct.; Geoffrey Hunter, "David Hume: Some Unpublished Letters, 1771-1776," Texas Studies in Lit. & Lang. for Summer 1960; Arthur Johnston, "Gray's 'The Triumphs of Owen'," RES for Aug.; Harry P. Kroiter, "Cowper and Deism," JHI for Oct.-Dec.; Alan D. McKillop, "The Living Burns," Rice Inst. Pamphlet for Oct.; Paul Miner, "The Polyp as a Symbol in the Poetry of William Blake," Texas Studies in Lit. & Lang. for Summer 1960; Robert P. Newman, "Be a Philosopher" [on Hume], Penn. Speech Annual for 1960; Paul Sawyer, "The Garrick-Mrs. Cibber Relationship," N&Q for Aug.; W. H. Stevenson, "The Shaping of Blake's 'America'," MLR for Oct.; James Thorpe, "Friend to Mrs. Piozzi: Penelope Pennington in Miniature," Princeton Univ. Library Chronicle for Spring 1960 [MS. of Penelope Pennington now at Princeton]; James Trainer, "Tieck's Translation of The Rivals," MLQ for September; Winifred Lynsky, "Collins' 'Ode on the Poetical Character,'" Explicator for Feb. 1961.

Of general interest: Seymour Betsky, "Literature and General Culture," Universities Quart. for Feb.-Apr. 1960; J. H. Broome, "Voltaire and Foucheret de Monbron: a 'Candide' Problem Reconsidered," MLR for Oct.; P. Honan, "Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century English Punctuation Theory," Eng. Studies for Apr.; Ian Jack, "The True Raillery," Cairo Studies in English for 1960; S.D. Kennedy, "The Accession and Early Years of George III," Quart. Rev. for Oct.; W. G. Moore, "Boileau and Longinus," French Studies for Jan.; Merle L. Perkins, "Voltaire and the Abbé de Saint-Pierre," Fr. Rev. for Dec.; Jan S. Prybyla, "The World of The Wealth of Nations," Univ. of Toronto Quart.

for Oct.; A. L. Rowse, "New and Kind Light on George III," N. Y. Times Mag. for Oct. 23; George Rudé, "The Middlesex Electors of 1768-1769," EHR for 1960; Herbert M. Schueller, "The Quarrel of the Ancients and Moderns" [in music history and criticism], Music and Letters for Oct.; R. D. Spector, "Attacks on the Critical Review in the Literary Magazine," N&Q for Aug.; Geoffrey Tillotson, "The Critic and the Dated Text," Sewanee Rev. for Autumn; Susie I. Tucker, "Some Notes on James Hervey," N&Q for August; Pierre Schneider, "Poussin," Horizon for March 1961.

The Summer-Autumn number of the Seventeenth-Century News contains a useful and informative listing of the work—past, present, future—of Jim Osborn. The Listener for December 22 records that among the papers of the late Sir Max Beerbohm are "working notes and fragmentary drafts from various projected essays and jeux d'esprit" on—among others—Dr. Johnson. In the recent volume of Studies in Honor of John C. Hodges and Alwin Thaler (University of Tennessee Press) there are two essays to list here: Robert W. Daniel, "Johnson on Literary Texture" and Lee Morgan, "Boswell's Portrait of Goldsmith."

COMING BOOKS

The most enticing book list, at least for an eighteenth-century enthusiast, to come our way in a long time, is the spring announcement of the Yale University Press. Here is what is promised: Volume I of the Twickenham Pope [at last!], edited by E. Audra and Aubrey Williams; the new volume of the Percy Letters, referred to later; two new volumes of the Yale Walpole, the correspondence with George Selwyn and other wits, and with a group of literary ladies [with 81 letters of Walpole here published for the first time!], edited by W. S. Lewis and Robert A. Smith; an extensive work on the paintings of Claude Lorrain by Marcel Röthlisberger; a new volume of the Franklin Papers covering the years 1745 to 1750; and Mary E. Knapp's Prologues and Epilogues of the Eighteenth Century. Does this stir up some keen anticipation? It should. And all from one publisher! Other volumes which we also eagerly await are: the third installment of the Burke Correspondence, edited by George H. Guttridge (Chicago); B.I. Granger, Political Satire in the American Revolution (Cornell); L. Proudfoot, Dryden's Aeneid and Its Seventeenth Century Predecessors (in U.S., Barnes and Noble); George M. Harper, The Neoplatonism of William Blake (North Carolina); Sir Harold Nicolson, The Age of Reason, 1700-1789 (Constable); Robert Voitle, Samuel Johnson the Moral-ist (Harvard); Kalmin A. Burnim, David Garrick, Director (Pittsburgh); Henry K. Miller, Essays on Fielding's "Miscellanies" (Princeton); A.W. Secord, "Robert Drury's Journal" and Other Studies (Illinois); A.O. Lovejoy, The

Reason, the Understanding and Time (Johns Hopkins).

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS

The recent death of Jim Work, Chairman of the English Department at Indiana University, was a tragic loss for all of us. For years he had been planning a scholarly edition of Tom Jones, and he was to have completed it as part of the new Wesleyan Edition of the Works of Henry Fielding. It is sad to think that we will never have his version of Tom. As an outstanding administrator, as an enthusiastic eighteenth-century scholar, and a friend whose vigor and gusto was infectious, he will be long remembered. We are sad also to pass on the news of the death of Dwight Durling (Queens College), author of the standard work on the Georgic tradition in eighteenth-century poetry.

We had asked Arthur Sherbo for a report on Agostino Lombardo's edition of Johnson's Preface to Shakespeare e Altri Scritti Shakespeariani (Bari, 1960), mentioned in our last issue, and we now pass on his comments. The volume contains a long 180-page introduction and most of what Johnson wrote on Shakespeare. For the texts, however, Lombardo relies either on modern reprints or on the 1825 edition, which is not textually sound. And for his commentary and notes he has evidently not had access to much modern scholarship. Lombardo is a true Johnsonian enthusiast who has made available to Italian readers a body of work which will give much pleasure and instruction, and for this accomplishment his volume is to be heartily welcomed. For further analysis see Sherbo's review in the 1961 PQ bibliography.

We have been sent a newspaper account from London of what is described as "a stomach-stretching effort to revive the old-fashioned English breakfast of Samuel Johnson's time." There were thirteen courses. Hostess was Edana Romney, actress and writer, and there were some 300 guests, including many celebrities such as Alicia Markova, Sir Donald Wolfit, Lord Russell, Kingsley Amis and Leon Goossens. No Johnsonian appears to have been present. The meal began with soup charged with rum, and went on with oysters, shrimp, prawns, eggs, mutton cutlets, braised kidneys, glazed tongue, roast beef, turkey, roast veal, game pie; and there were such sundries as potatoes, rice, preserves, cheeses, and assorted drinks. The eating went on for over three hours. But what intrigues us most about the newspaper account is the last line "Sponsors were makers of breakfast foods." We wonder if box tops had to be presented with cards of admission.

There was a well-produced revival of Goldsmith's She Stoops to Conquer at the Phoenix Theatre in November. Happily, one was not aware of any

burlesquing or condescending in the performance, though a good many extra comic effects were added. We, for one, found it highly entertaining, as did thousands of school children. So far, we have not seen the new film, "The Three Worlds of Gulliver," but have been authoritatively informed that it may claim a special award for originality. Not partially, but completely does it reverse the intention of Swift. The two chief points it makes is that Gulliver, the human being, is much smarter than the giants and other strange beings he meets in his travels; and that in the end "love conquers all." A neat trick of adapting — eh what?

In our last number we plaintively asked where were the "new crop of projectors," filled with grandiose schemes for the improving of eighteenth-century scholarship. By return mail we had a letter from E.P. Dandridge (University of Michigan College of Engineering) assuring us that the spirit of adventure was not dead. Although the great index to periodicals, upon which he and Powell Stewart of Texas had long been working, has had to be abandoned, for the time at least, since the magnitude of the work was simply too great for any group of independent scholars, he is still embarked on two other projects. One is a collection of literary criticism culled from early eighteenth-century periodicals, and the other is a descriptive directory of selected periodicals for the period. This last will include detailed descriptions of approximately 240 periodicals published between 1700 and 1750, with particular emphasis being given to the kinds of materials appearing in each one. Certainly such a tool would be of immense value to research scholars, for it would save them hours of wasted effort. And so we say: more power to Dandridge and others like him!

We hear that the George Wahr Publishing Co., Ann Arbor, Mich., still has a few copies remaining of the volume of essays collected by Dick Boys in Honor of Arthur Case in 1952. The price is \$3.75 a copy. If you do not have a copy of this valuable selection of modern eighteenth-century scholarship and criticism, here is your last chance.

All of you will be delighted to hear that Donald Bond (Chicago) is preparing a scholarly edition of the Tatler, to be a companion to his edition of the Spectator, now being published by the Clarendon Press in Oxford. Bond is the first recipient of the newly established William H. Colvin Research Professorship in the Humanities at Chicago, which will allow him an entire year free from teaching duties. We may thus hope for rapid progress. We are certain that he would welcome hints or suggestions concerning any problems connected with the Tatler, or the careers of Steele and Addison during this period.

Reviews of other new books must be postponed to our next number.